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DRAFT REPORT

Addendum

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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 7. Economic and social information and policy analysis

1. At its 25th meeting, on 19 June 1996, the Committee considered programme 7, Economic and social information and policy analysis, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

Discussion

2. Many delegations stressed the importance of this programme, particularly in the areas of statistics and population, and supported the objectives of the plan. One delegation queried the added value of the activities of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis in these areas.

3. Some delegations expressed the view that the objectives were ambitious, while others felt that the objectives did not lend themselves to measurement. Several delegations stressed the need to ensure that adequate coordination or cooperation, as appropriate, were maintained between the programme and other United Nations organs and/or agencies, such as the regional economic commissions, the Bretton Woods institutions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in order to avoid duplication of work and to ensure the effective use of the scarce available resources.

4. Some delegations expressed the view that the programme should also address the question of a non-discriminatory trade system and transfer of technology, as well as the external debt situation.

5. Several delegations stressed that issues relative to countries with economies in transition should be properly reflected in the plan, including refugees and displaced persons, migration and housing, and the study of market solutions to problems of allocation, distribution and regulation.

6. Several delegations stressed the importance of addressing the question of the impact of multilateral sanctions and of coercive economic measures on both target countries and third States. Other delegations had reservations as to whether the end of the cold war gave a new focus to the interactions between the political and economic dimensions of the Secretariat's work on issues such as the effects of sanctions. Others questioned whether the provision of economic and social analysis and policy proposals regarding post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation of crisis-stricken areas should be included in the programme. A number of delegations stressed that the question of the impact of the coercive economic measures applied unilaterally by some countries should also be addressed by the programme.

7. One delegation pointed out that subprogramme 7.3 should have been presented as a separate programme entitled "Global development issues and policies", with the following subprogrammes:

1. Monitoring and assessment of current global economic issues and policies

2. Promotion of development and international economic cooperation

3. Problems and prospects of integrated development

4. External debt and financing of development

5. System-wide analysis of specific areas within the economic and social programmes

6. Planning and coordination of international cooperation (including country programming)

7. Development and the environment

8. Some delegations stated that subprogramme 7.2 should consider the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in its entirety, and that there was a need to implement the 16 chapters of the Programme of Action in an integrated and comprehensive manner. In that connection, the actual provision of financial resources pledged by developed countries played a critical role. In that respect, the subprogramme could also undertake an overall assessment of the resources needed for the implementation of the Programme of Action. Moreover, the subprogramme was focused mainly on the provision of information. While recognizing the importance of information for formulating population policies, those delegations stressed that action-

oriented recommendations with regard to population and development aimed at supporting national efforts, needs and policies were indispensable.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of programme 7 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 7.2: Add the words "the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)" after the words "Fourth World Conference on Women";

(b) Paragraph 7.3 (b): Add the words "reliability, consistency" after the word "compilation";

(d) Paragraph 7.4 (a): At the end of the third sentence, add the words "to reinforce the United Nations role as a centre of excellence in statistics";

(e) Paragraph 7.7 (d): In the first sentence, delete the word "Rapidly" and insert the words "as well as the aging of population" after the words "international migration";

(f) Paragraph 7.8 (b): [In the second sentence, replace the words "to resolve the difficulties of countries with debt-servicing problems" with the words "(text to be provided by Iran (Islamic Republic of), Brazil and the United States of America)"];

(g) Paragraph 7.10 (c): In the third sentence, delete the words "which forms part of the Organization's broader effort to arrest and mitigate the consequences of fragmentation within countries".